



HF Happenings 388

January 2010

HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League

Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga

1925 - 2010

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Contesting News

Port Elizabeth ARS VHF/UHF Contest. The first session of the annual PEARS VHF/UHF contest starts at 18:00 CAT on Friday 15 January and closes at 16:00 CAT on Saturday 16 January. The second session commences at 16:01 CAT on Saturday and ends at 14:00 CAT on Sunday 17 January. Participation can be as a base station, a field station, a club or multi-operator station or as a limited station. Activity is on FM, SSB and digitally on 2, 4 and 6 m, as well as 23 and 70 cm. A valid contact consists of an exchange of call signs, signal reports and location, such as the six digit-Maidenhead grid locator or co-ordinates. The rules are available at www.zs2pe.co.za.

SARL 80 m Club Contest. The first of six Club Contests will be run on Wednesday 27 January 2010. This is a phone contest starting at 19:30 CAT and ending at 20:30 CAT and the exchange is an RS report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. Only one contact with each station is allowed.

Your electronic log must reach the contest committee within 7 days of the end of the contest and must be sent to hfcontests@netactive.co.za. You can make use of an Excel spreadsheet, a text file or a Cabrillo file. The following information is required on your log sheet -

Call sign Date Time UTC Freq/Band RS sent RS Rec Points for each contact

The other contests are March - PSK and RTTY; May - CW; July - Phone; September - PSK and RTTY; November - CW.

2010 Diary of Events and Contest Manual

The 2010 Diary of Events (pdf), the 2010 SARL Contest Manual (pdf) and 2010 Log and Summary Sheets [zipped] has been uploaded to the SARL website and can be found at <http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp>

The documents are also available on the Contesting page on the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club web site <http://www.zs4bfn.co.za/contesting.asp>

PLEASE destroy any copies you have of the 2009 Contest Manual (or any year before that), also any 2009 log and summary sheets. The 2010 Contest Manual is the only document that will be valid for this year.

Some new contests have been added - SARL 80 m Club Championships, RaDAR Contest and ZS6JVT Spring 40 m Youth Contest. The SARL 80 metre QSO Party has a new sponsor,

January 2010

ZS10WCS operated by the Vrystaat ARC

1 New Year's Day, start of
2010 CQ DX Marathon
2/3 ARRL RTTY roundup
9/10 Mongolian RTTY DX contest; Hunting Lions in the Air
13 Schools open
15 - 17 PEARS VHF/UHF Contest
16/17 Hungarian DX contest
23 SMT course, Cape Town
24 BACAR launch, Western Cape
27 SARL Club Phone Contest
29-31 CQ WW 160 m CW contest
31 SARL Presidents Net
31 Closing date AGM Motions

Did you tell anyone about amateur radio this week?





welcome to the West Rand ARC and thank you to the Durban ARC. Please read the General Rules, changes have been made; paragraphs have been moved around and re-numbered.

Make the documents available to your club members and friends. Place the documents on your club web site. Get the members active.

History of the West Rand Amateur Radio Club

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club is busy compiling a history of the club since its establishment in 1938. If you have any information, stories and photographs regarding the history of the club, please send it to Willem, ZS6WWJ, at e-mail willem@zs6wwj.co.za

Your contribution will be acknowledged in the book we intend publishing at the end of 2010.

This is something all radio clubs should do. The SARL is 85 years young this year. The Pretoria ARC is celebrating their 80th anniversary this year (no, I do not think Tjerk, ZS6P, was at that first meeting in 1930!) and the Bloemfontein RAC is 30 years young this year.

From the CQ / WorldRadio Online Newsroom - 13 January 2010

Some ham radio activity from Haiti is beginning to be heard, following yesterday's devastating earthquake.

Father John Henault, HH6JH, in Port-au-Prince, made contact late Wednesday morning with the Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net (IATN) on 14.300 MHz, the IARU Global Centre of Activity frequency for emergency communications. Based on relays monitored at W2VU, Father John reported that he and those with him were safe, but had no power and no phone service. He was operating on battery power and hoping to get a generator running later in the day. He asked the station copying him, William Sturridge, KI4MMZ, in Flagler Beach, Florida, to telephone relatives with information that he was OK.

The following frequencies are in use for earthquake-related traffic and should be kept clear unless you are able to provide requested assistance: 14300 (IATN), 14265 (SATERN); 7045 (IARU Region II) and 3720 (IARU Region II) kHz. Additional frequencies may be activated on different bands at different times of day, so be sure to listen carefully before transmitting to make sure you are not interfering with emergency traffic.

960 km with 1 mW ERP 500 kHz WSPR

Roger, G3XBM, has been showing what can be achieved on the 500 kHz band using very low power and WSPR software. On the GQRP reflector, he writes:

My small 1 mW ERP station reached further than ever into Europe last night [Thursday] with a report from DG6RCH (JN68) in Southern Germany. The distance was 960 km, just 40 km short of my elusive 1 000 km personal target. More details of the QRP 500 kHz station are on my website and blog.

Over the next few nights, I'll be WSPR'ing overnight as there are a lot of new stations listening in Europe and conditions seem to be best in the small hours. There have also been new stations TX'ing from Ireland (EI) and the Netherlands (PA) of late and I have received WD2XSH/17 (running 5W ERP WSPR) several times in the last few weeks. 500 kHz continues to hold me in its thrall.





The 500 kHz vertical was coming down to make way for my 28 MHz antenna, but I have decided to keep on 500 kHz for the next few weeks at least. If the weather lets up, I may try to get a few more dB ERP by making some further antenna/ATU improvements.

Why not try listening on 500 kHz WSPR this weekend? Audio from a RX tuned to 502.4 kHz USB into a PC running the W1JT WSPR2 software is all you need. Even quite small, untuned, antennas work OK with rigs like the FT-817 on 500 kHz.

4U1 Call Signs

Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, the ARRL News Editor says, "This past weekend when I was working the ARRL RTTY Round-Up, I came across a call sign that I had never seen before. However, that is not what confused me (as I become more active on the air, I run across all sorts of interesting call signs, such as 3V8ST). No, what confused me was that the supercheck database and my logging program told me that the call sign was located in the US. We all know that AA-AL, K, N and W are all US prefixes. Then why was 4U1WB showing up as being located in the US, too?

Upon assurances I was not going crazy -- and more importantly that the supercheck database and my logger were not broken - I found out that 4U1WB is a United Nations call sign assigned to the World Bank Amateur Radio Club at the World Bank in Washington, DC. There are four 4U1 call signs around the globe: 4U1WB; 4U1UN, assigned to the United Nations; 4U1ITU, assigned to the International Amateur Radio Club at the International Telecommunication Union, and 4U1VIC, assigned to the Vienna International Radio Club at the Vienna International Centre.

In the past, the United Nations has issued 4U call signs to various entities, allowing its use in areas where the UN has had peacekeeping forces. In 1995, an operation from Western Sahara used 4U/KCOPA, while Burundi used 4U9U in 1994.

While 4U1UN and 4U1ITU count for credit toward the ARRL's DXCC award, 4U1WB and 4U1VIC do not. The DXCC rules define 4U1WB and 4U1VIC as "ineligible areas." These areas are classified as "extraterritorial legal entities of any nature, including, but not limited to, embassies, consulates, monuments, offices of the United Nations agencies or related organizations, other inter-governmental organizations or diplomatic missions." This rule also clarifies that these two stations are considered part of their "host entity" for DXCC purposes. This makes 4U1WB part of the US and 4U1VIC part of Austria for DXCC purposes. *Now you know as well!*

CONFIRMED	QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	2 WAY
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR				



World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

Pirate

Once upon a time, the 4K2 prefix was used by stations from Franz Josef Land. However, the 4J-4K call sign prefix blocks have been allocated to Azerbaijan for quite a number of years now. With reference to 4K2JF/p (recently reported on the bands as operating from Franz Josef





Land), Natig Gasimov, 4J5T, President of the Federation of Radio Sport of Azerbaijan, says that this call sign "has never been issued by the Ministry of Communications of Azerbaijan".

EA Special Prefixes

Spain has revised the criteria for allocation of special call signs. Special prefixes ED, EE and EF are for contest operating: applicants may choose the suffix (1, 2 or 3 letters) for 26 major contests; for other contests, the suffix must coincide with the licensee's regular suffix. Special prefixes EG, EH, AM, AN, AO are for non-contest events, with up to 3-letter suffixes.

DX from Africa

Uganda, 5X. Nick, G3RWF, will be active again as 5X1NH from Fort Portal, Uganda between 21 January and 20 March. He will operate CW and digital modes, with some SSB. QSL via home call and LoTW.

Kenya, 5Z. The new dates for the 5ZOH expedition to Kenya are 12 - 25 February, including activity from the islands of Wasini (AF-067) and Lamu (AF-040), as well as participation in the ARRL International DX CW Contest. Enrico, 5Z4ES, Frank, IK8TEO, and Antonio, IK8VRH will operate SSB, CW and RTTY on all bands. QSL via IK8VRH (direct, bureau and LoTW). The website for the operation is at www.ddxc.it.

Lesotho, 7P. Art, ZS6BQI will be active as 7P8BA from Lesotho on 14 - 18 January. He plans to operate mainly CW and digital modes on 40 - 10 metres. QSL via home call.

Angola, D2. Paulo, D2CQ (CT1ITZ) will be going back to Porto Amboim in February, this time with a 5-band beam. He expects to be working in Angola for the next few years. QSL via CT1IUA (he has the paper logs and is entering them into an electronic log, and then he will start sending cards out).

Trip to Africa. Peter, HA3AUI is going back to Africa. He will be active in his spare time as either 6W2SC (from Senegal) or J5UAP (from Guinea-Bissau) from 15 January until 31 March. Peter plans to operate mainly Digital modes (other modes on request) on 160 - 10 metres. QSL via HA3AUI, direct or bureau. His website is at cqafrika.net.

Trip to Africa. Laci, HA0NAR and his wife Susan will be visiting Senegal and Guinea-Bissau between 30 January and 13 February. Look for 6W/HA0NAR until 6 February (with a side trip to IOTA group AF-078) and for J5NAR on 7 - 13 February (with a side trip to IOTA group AF-093). Expect activity on the HF bands CW, SSB and RTTY, with a focus on the low bands during operations from the mainland. Activity on 6 and 2m will depend on the local situation. QSL via HA0NAR, direct or bureau.

Special Event Stations

Poland, SP. Special event station 3Z0FCH will be active until 30 June to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyc Chopin, the great Polish composer and virtuoso pianist. QSL via SP7PAD, direct or bureau.





Turkey, TA. The European Capital of Culture is a city designated by the European Union for a period of one calendar year during which it is given a chance to highlight its cultural life and cultural development. Istanbul is one of the three cities designated for 2010, and the TC Special Wireless Activity Team will conduct a year long celebration by using thirteen TC2010 prefixed special call signs from several different locations. The first activities will be by TC2010CCE, TC2010CCA and TC2010CCI on 15 - 18 January. Detailed information on the event and the relevant award can be found at www.ta0u.com

2009 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

The January 2010 issue of CQ Amateur Radio dropped into my post box today and in it, I find the results of the 2009 CQ WW WPX SSB contest. Congratulations to all the Southern African stations.

Single Operator Category - Namibia

V55X, operated by Andrew, V51YJ, made 932 024 points from 710 QSOs and 452 prefixes - All Band Low Power class.

Single Operator Category - South Africa

Jan, ZS4JAN, made 23 760 points from 121 QSOs and 88 prefixes - All Band Low Power class

Theunis, ZS2EC, made 945 points from 21 QSOs and 21 prefixes - All Band Low Power class

Jacques, ZS1JY, made 448 points from 14 QSOs and 14 prefixes - All Band Low Power class

Andrew, V55X, and Jan, ZS4JAN, are also listed in the Tribander/Single Element class

Assisted Category - South Africa

Barney, ZS4U, made 3 863 145 points from 1 779 QSOs and 715 prefixes - All Band class

Multi-operator Single Transmitter category - Mozambique

C91TX made 2 401 841 points from 1 315 QSOs and 611 prefixes.

Multi-operator Two Transmitter category - South Africa

A group of Port Elizabeth Amateurs, ZT2V, made 2 040 513 points from 1 158 QSOs and 593 prefixes.

SARL HF Field Day

High Power

1st Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, 30 488 points, MO field

2nd Cape Town ARS, ZS1CT, 19 944 points, MO field

3rd Zululand ARC, ZS5ZLB, 19 542 points, MO field

4th Magalies ARK, ZS6MRK, 18 012 points, MO field

5th Tienie Herbst, ZS6MHH, 15 348 points, SO field

6th Midlands and Highway ARC, ZS5PMB, 14 964 points, MO field

7th Francois Muller, ZS6M, 13 760 points, SO field

8th Bradley Glen, ZS5BG, 5 016 points, General station

9th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 3 972 points, General station

10th Pieter Bosman, ZS3AOR, 3 504 points, General station





11th Johan de Wit, ZR5JF, 3 328 points, SO field

Low Power

1st West Rand ARC, ZS6WR, 142 024 points, MO field

2nd Boland ARC, ZS1TB, 132 240 points, MO field

3rd Sandton ARC, ZS6STN, 75 952 points, MO field

4th Philip Esterhuizen, ZS4PJ (ex ZU4PE), 67 232 points, General station

5th Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, 61 048 points, MO field

6th Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK, 38 904 points, MO field

7th Mitchel Mynhardt, ZU6M, 26 224, points, General station

8th Hibiscus Coast ARC, ZS5HAC, 24 072 points, MO field

9th Jan Coetzee, ZS5JC, 19 080 points, MO field

10th Warren Snyders, ZR5WOZ, 17 904 points, General station

11th Oakdale ARC, ZS1OAK, 16 632 points, MO field

12th Bloemfontein RAC, ZS4BFN, 2 760 points, MO field

QRP

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN, 208 812 points, SO field

2nd Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT, 78 954 points, General station

3rd Pierre van Deventer, ZS6BB, 38 052 points, SO field

Check logs

Lichtenburg ARC, ZS6LRK

Stephanus Blignault, ZS6XB

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 11 to 18 January 2010.

RSGB 80 m SSB Club Championship

20:00 - 21:30 UTC 13 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and Serial No

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 20 January 2010

E-mail logs to:

[ccssb\[dot\]logs\[at\]rsgbhfcc\[dot\]org](mailto:ccssb[dot]logs[at]rsgbhfcc[dot]org)

Upload log at:

<http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2010/r80m>

cc.shtml

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 15 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40 and 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Dupes allowed after at least one intervening QSO

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 17 January 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

Did you tell anyone about amateur radio this week?





<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

LZ Open Contest
00:00 - 06:00 UTC 16 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 and 40 m
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; QRP
Max power: QRP: 5 W
Exchange: 3-Digit Serial No and 3-Digit Serial No received from last QSO
Work stations: Once each 30 minutes
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 26 January 2010
E-mail logs to: LZ1GL[at]yahoo[dot]com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rulesF.htm>

Hungarian DX Contest
12:00 UTC 16 January to 11:59 UTC 17 January
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - CW or SSB - Low or High; Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, Low or High; Single Op Single Band - Mixed, CW or SSB - Low or High; Multi-Single - Low or High; Multi-Multi; SWL
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: HA: RS(T) and 2-letter county; non-HA: RS(T) and Serial No
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 1 point per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 6 points per QSO with HA station
Multipliers: Hungarian counties, once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 16 February 2010
E-mail logs to:
hadx[at]mrasz[dot]axelero[dot]net
Mail logs to: MRASZ, 1400 Budapest, PO Box 11, Hungary
Find rules at:
http://www.hadx.com/HADX/html/rules_en.html

UK DX RTTY Contest
12:00 UTC 16 January to 12:00 UTC 17 January
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op - Low or High; Multi-Single
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: UK: RST and UK area code; non-UK: RST and QSO No
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with UK (non-UK stations only)
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each UK area once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 16 February 2010
E-mail logs to: ukdxc[at]scotham[dot]net
Mail logs to: UK DX RTTY Contest Committee, PO Box 7469, Glasgow, G42 0YD, Scotland UK
Find rules at:
<http://www.ukdx.srars.org/ukdxc.pdf>

Feld Hell Sprint
16:00 - 18:00 UTC 16 January
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province and country once only





Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 1 February 2010
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.emailmeform.com/fid.php?formid=202397>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>

North American SSB QSO Party
18:00 UTC 16 January to 06:00 UTC 17 January
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP or Low; Multi-Two - Low
Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours
Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 January 2010

E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)
Upload log at:
<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php>
Mail logs to: Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604, USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and Member No or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 January 2010
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
<http://www.fpqr.com/autolog.php>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.fpqr.com/fpqrprun.php>

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 21 January
Locust QSO Party, 02:00 - 02:27 UTC (40 m); 02:27 - 02:53 UTC (80 m) 21 January
RSGB 80 m Data Club Championship, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 21 January
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 January
YL-ISSB SSB QSO Party, 00:00 UTC 23 January to 23:59 UTC 24 January
MIE 33 Contest, 11:00 - 15:00 UTC 23 January and 23:00 UTC 23 January to 03:00 UTC 24 January
BARTG RTTY Sprint, 12:00 UTC 23 January to 12:00 UTC 24 January
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, 19:00 UTC 23 January to 04:00 UTC 25 January





This week in History

1838 Samuel Morse publicly demonstrated his telegraph for the first time in Morristown, New Jersey

1838 The first telegraph message was sent using Morse code

1904 Marconi Co's CQD - Distress signal introduced. Replaced by SOS in 1906

1946 First EME moon bounce signal by amateur N4CBC on 112 MHz, 3 000 W

[IRTSNews]

Remembering the unit men - Volta

Hello, I am Jim Linton, VK3PC, with another in a series of brief looks at those who made discoveries and have their names as units of measurement.

Alessandro Volta, born in Como Italy in 1745 was absorbed in the study of electricity during his school years.

At the age of 20, he wrote to many leading scientists and those letters showed a high-level knowledge of the topic.

His discovery of electrical current generation by placing two dissimilar metals in brine was the start of battery technology.

The best metals for the purpose at the time were zinc and silver, and Volta created a number of cells to find that when connected in series it was possible to receive an electric shock.

His work made him famous and wealthy, and his name was adopted in 1881 as the unit of electromotive force.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, Q-News, the RSGB News, Maurice, F5NQL, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

